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INFID
International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development

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STATEMENT ON EAST TIMOR

INFID deplores the continuing violation of human rights in East Timor, including extra-judicial killings, disappearances, arbitrary detentions and the violation of the rights of women including sexual violence;

INFID regrets that the Indonesian government has failed to implement most undertakings made at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

INFID notes that according to international law, East Timor is a non-self-governing territory whose status is not resolved. One important step toward resolution would be the exercise of the right to self-determination through a mechanism that is just and peaceful and that can be accepted by the international community;

In addition, recognising the long standing effort by East Timorese people and by Indonesian and non-Indonesian NGOs to promote and protect the human rights, and in the interests of seeking a just and peaceful solution of the problem of the people of East Timor;

Witnessing the emergence of more and more voices in the democratisation movement in Indonesia for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in East Timor;

And supporting the efforts of the UN secretary general for achieving a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor.

INFID calls on the government of Indonesia:

- to approach negotiations in a spirit of renewed commitment, and to facilitate wider and deeper East Timorese participation in any further initiatives;
- to implement all the resolutions and chairman's statements adopted at the UN Commission on Human Rights;
- to take unconditional measures to improve the human rights situation in East Timor;
- to immediately and unconditionally release those East Timorese detained or convicted for political reasons;
- to ensure that all East Timorese in custody are treated humanely and in accordance with international standards, and that trials are similarly conducted according to international norms;
- to stop oppressing and intimidating East Timorese and Indonesians working to protect and promote the human rights of the people of East Timor;
- to invite the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to East Timor as soon as it can be arranged and to enable the working group to present its report at the 55th session of the UNCHR;

- to demilitarise the territory, reducing both Indonesian regular troop numbers and immediately disbanding existing paramilitary organisations such as Gardapaksi and Halilintar;
- to respect the right of East Timorese people to determine their future and manage their own lives economically, socially and culturally, and to ensure that no development project involving land acquisition or major Indonesian or foreign investment takes place without the full participation of the affected people in the decision-making process;
- to refrain from implementing government sponsored transmigration programmes;
- to respect the freedom of expression, association and assembly and refrain from intervening in events organised outside Indonesia that involve peaceful expression of support and solidarity for the people of East Timor;
- to respect the rights of the Indonesian to be and remained fully informed on what is happening in East Timor.

INFID calls on the international community:

- to stop providing arm and military assistance to Indonesia;
- to make every effort to persuade the Indonesian government to enter into negotiations with the other parties directly involved.